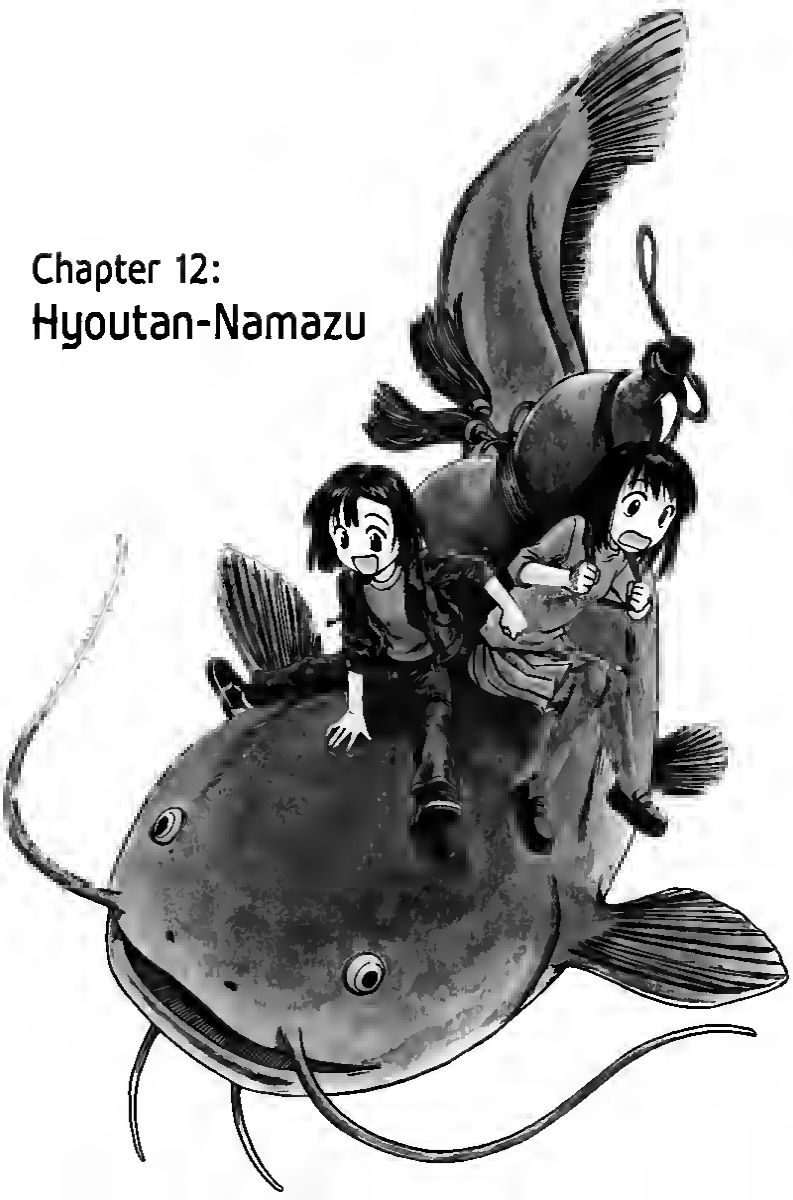
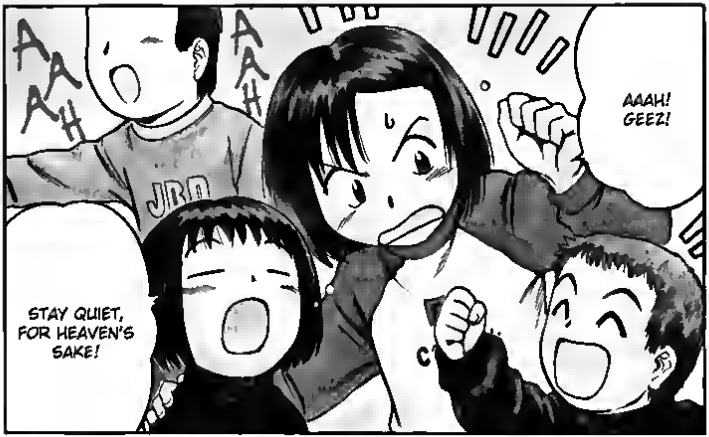
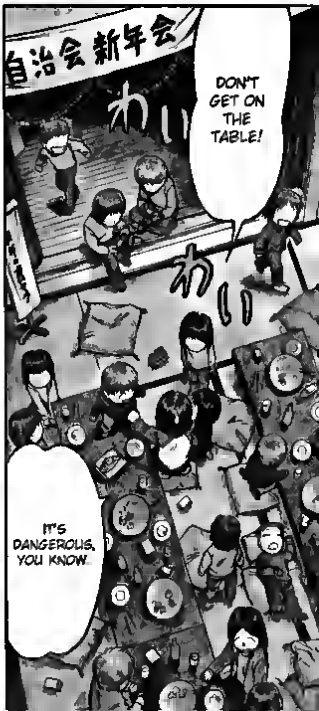
Chapter 12:
Hyoutan-Namazu




AAAH!
GEEZ!
AAAH
STAY QUIET, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE!

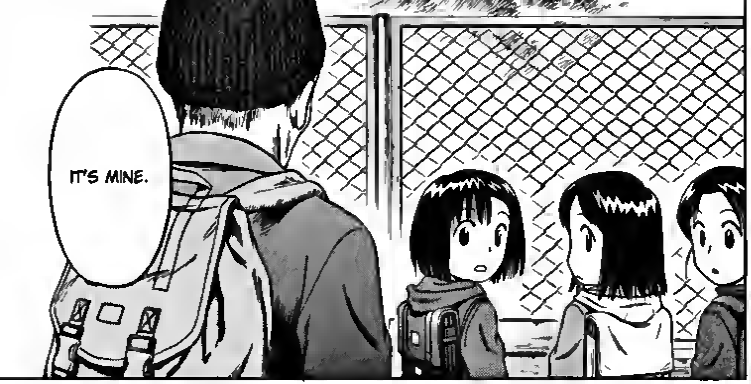
HEY, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TOUCHING ME?!
YOU CAN'T PLAY WITH FOOD!

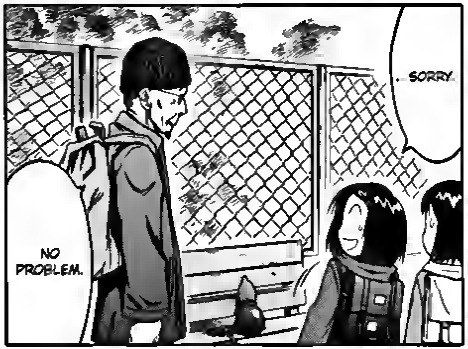
GEEZ! YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S STUFF!
MIZUKI...
WAAA!

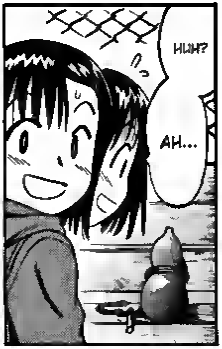

自治会新年会
わい
わい
DON'T GET ON THE TABLE!
IT'S DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW.

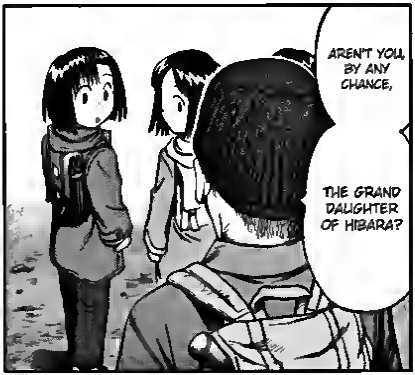
MIZUKA SEEMS LIKE A GOOD BIG SISTER TO THOSE KIDS
YES, SHE DOES!
かいかい
GRRR!
HAAA~ WHY ALL OF YOU CAME AROUND ME?!
HELP ME, HISAKO!
ALL RIGHT, COME HERE NOW.
carpark
MIZUKI, WE NEED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM!
WHAT?!
CALM DOWN, MIZUKI
HO-NEST-LY,
SINCE THE 6TH GRADE GIRLS WEREN'T THERE, ALL OF THEM CAME TO ME!
HAHA...
YOU'RE REALLY POPULAR WITH THE KIDS, MIZUKI
YESTERDAY REALLY WORN ME OUT!

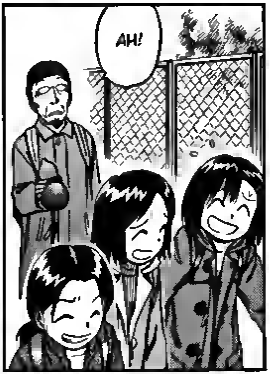
THOSE KIDS HAVE NO COMMON SENSE AT ALL!
IT'S SUPER TIRING!
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD-NATURED GIRL!
YOU THINK?
EH? WHAT IS THIS?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S A GOURD.
WHY IS IT HERE?
I HAVE NO IDEA!


IT'S MINE.


SORRY.
NO PROBLEM.

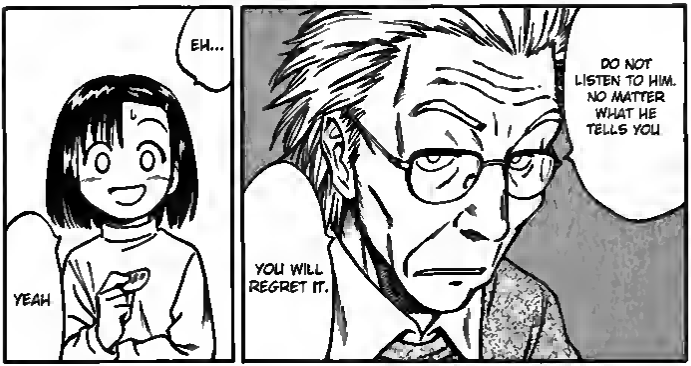

HUH?
AH...


AREN'T YOU, BY ANY CHANCE,
THE GRAND DAUGHTER OF HIBARA?

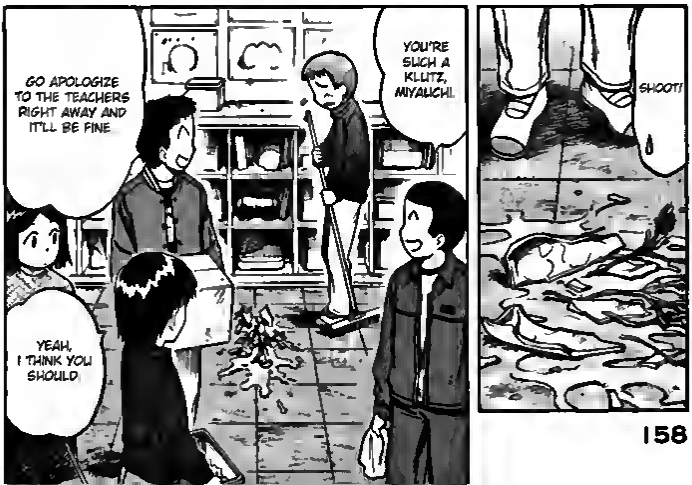

AH!

EUH... I WILL.
I'M IFUKUBE. I CAME HERE BECAUSE OF MY WORK.
TELL HIM I'LL COME AND VISIT HIM SOON.
MY GRANDPA KNOWS A LOT OF PEOPLE...
HE'S A LITTLE BIT WEIRD...
IFUBUKE?

YEAH
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
じっ
THAT FILTHY GOURD!
.....
?
IT'S AN OLD AQUAINTANCE ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A LONG TIME.
DID HE TELL YOU ANYTHING ELSE?
NO-THING IN PARTI-CULAR
MIZUKI


EH...
YEAH
DO NOT LISTEN TO HIM. NO MATTER WHAT HE TELLS YOU.
YOU WILL REGRET IT.

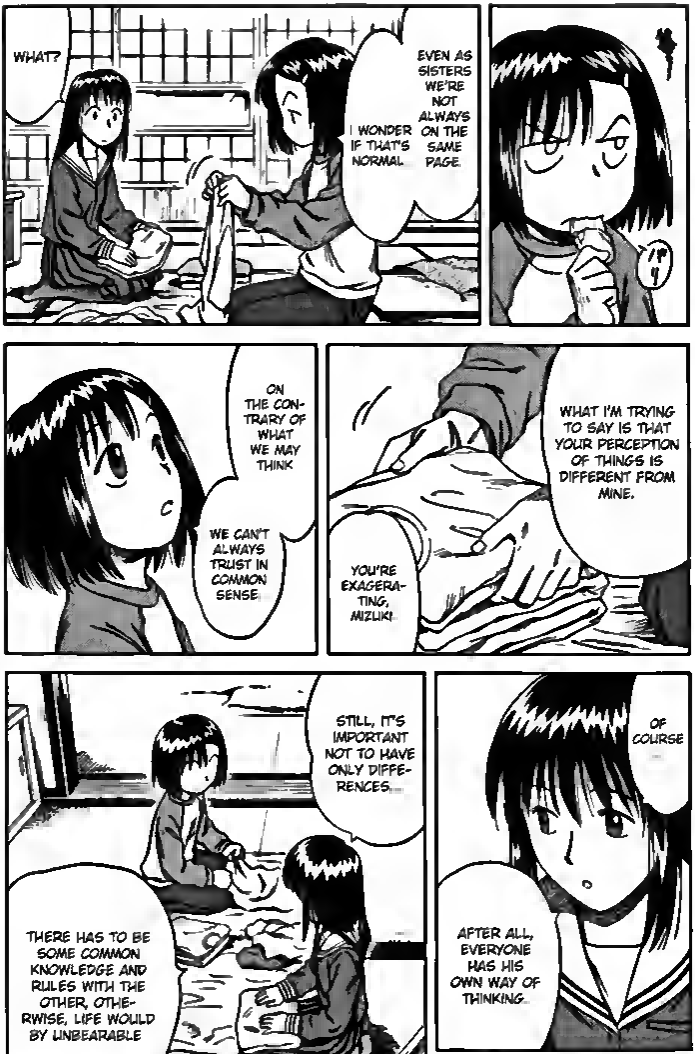
ガチャン
5年2組
AH!


GO APOLOGIZE TO THE TEACHERS RIGHT AWAY AND IT'LL BE FINE.
YEAH, I THINK YOU SHOULD.
YOU'RE SUCH A KLUTZ, MIYAUCHI.
SHOOT!

HEY, MIYAUCHI,
AREN'T YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS A LITTLE BIT?
AGAIN?
HE BREAKS STUFF VERY OFTEN, DOESN'T HE?
YEAH
YES, I'M SORRY..
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST THAT IT HAPPENED
YOU MUST LEARN HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS.
HE DID SOMETHING STUPID SO HE SHOULD BE SCOLDED, RIGHT?
IT'S FOR HIS OWN SAKE, YOU KNOW?
HEY..
HISHIMI
IT'S EASY TO APOLOGIZE
I THINK HE GOT IT ALREADY
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HIM
WHY?

HISHIMI'S REALLY HARSH...
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT!
.....
THAT'S ENOUGH.
JUST CLEAN THAT UP THEN GO APOLOGIZE, MIYAUCHI
YES ..
HMMM...
I AGREE. IF IT WERE ME, I'D HAVE SCOLDED HIM LIGHTLY. HE'S NOT IN A NURSERY AFTER ALL.
HM?
WHY DID I JUST REMEMEBERED THAT SCENE?
SHE'S QUITE DIFFERENT THAN ME.

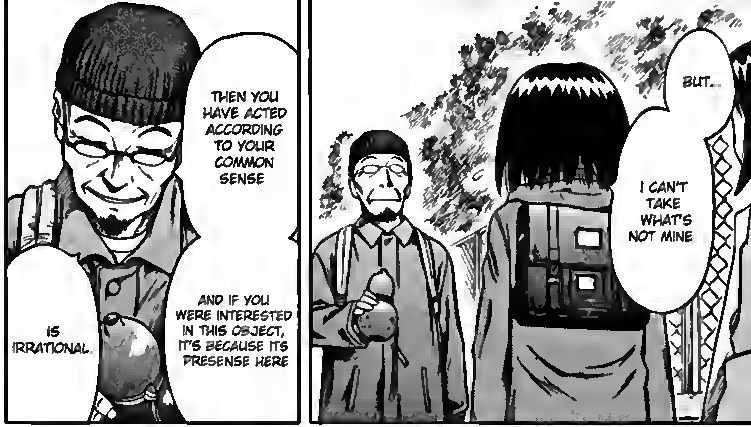
UHHHH
AAAH, MIZUKI!
I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY FINISHED IT!
AH, SORRY.
WE'VE ALREADY AGREED TO SHARE THE CHORES, REMEMBER?
HUH?
YOU CAN AT LEAST DO THE LAUNDRY WHEN YOU COME HOME BEFORE ME!
I SIMPLY FORGOT!
ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS REMIND ME
YOU HAVE TO DO IT WITHOUT ME REMINDING YOU, FOR GOD'S SAKE!

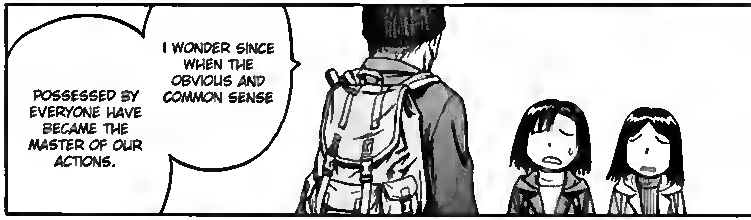

WHAT?
I WONDER IF THAT'S NORMAL
EVEN AS SISTERS WE'RE NOT ALWAYS ON THE SAME PAGE.
HMM
ON THE CONTRARY OF WHAT WE MAY THINK
WE CAN'T ALWAYS TRUST IN COMMON SENSE.
YOU'RE EXAGERATING, MIZUKI
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT YOUR PERCEPTION OF THINGS IS DIFFERENT FROM MINE.
THERE HAS TO BE SOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE AND RULES WITH THE OTHER, OTHERWISE, LIFE WOULD BY UNBEARABLE
STILL, IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO HAVE ONLY DIFFERENCES.
AFTER ALL, EVERYONE HAS HIS OWN WAY OF THINKING.
OF COURSE

BY THE WAY, MIZUKI
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH GRANDPA'S OLD AQUAINTANCE?
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT
NOPE,
WHY?
RECENTLY,
I SEE BEHIND YOU
A SHADOW WHICH MIGHT BE THAT OF THAT MAN. THAT'S WHY.
I DON'T SEE HIM VERY OFTEN BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S HAUNTING YOU.
.....

やい
やい
OBVIOUSLY, THIS GOURD DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU!
HUUUH? WHY MIZUKI?!
HEY, GIVE ME THAT!
AH...
GEEZ!
YEAH!
THIS SUCKS!
I WONDER WHAT HE WAS LOOKING AT
PUT IT BACK ON THE BENCH, MIZUKI
WHY DID HE LEAVE IT HERE AGAIN?!

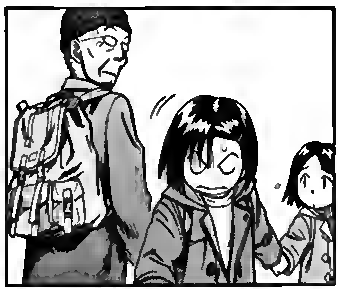
AH ..
EH, NO...
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE?
IT'S JUST THAT IF WE LEAVE IT HERE THE KIDS WILL TAKE IT TO PLAY WITH IT...
EUH ..
.....
HUH? WHY'S THAT?
BUT YOU...
WON'T PLAY WITH IT.
I'M CERTAIN OF IT.


THEN YOU HAVE ACTED ACCORDING TO YOUR COMMON SENSE
AND IF YOU WERE INTERESTED IN THIS OBJECT, IT'S BECAUSE ITS PRESENSE HERE
IS IRRATIONAL.
BUT...
I CAN'T TAKE WHAT'S NOT MINE


I WONDER SINCE WHEN THE OBVIOUS AND COMMON SENSE
POSSESSED BY EVERYONE HAVE BECAME THE MASTER OF OUR ACTIONS.

YOU CAN TAKE A LOOK, IF YOU WANT

MIZUKI...

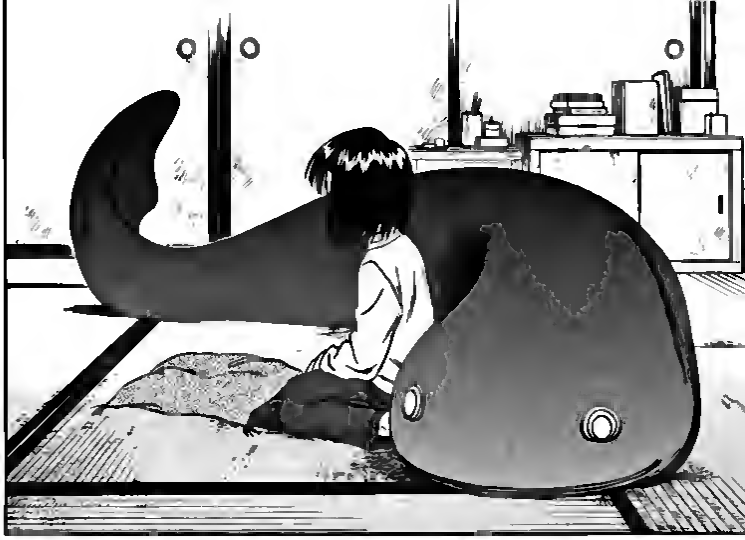


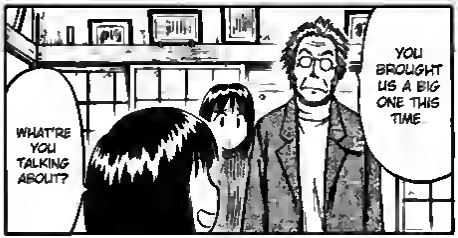
PERHAPS YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING
.....
ARE YOU SURE, MIZUKI?
ポーン
IN ANY CASE,
THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE.
パ!
チカッ
AS I SUSPEC TED...

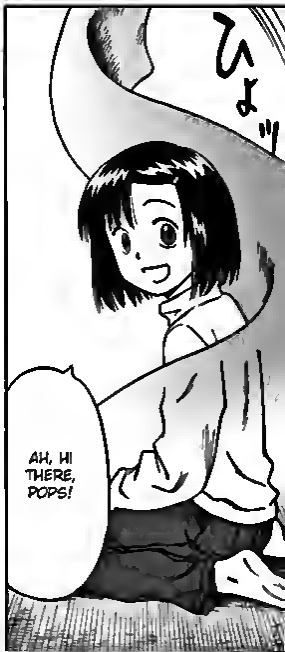
Manga Syndrome
Translator / Editor: Rebel

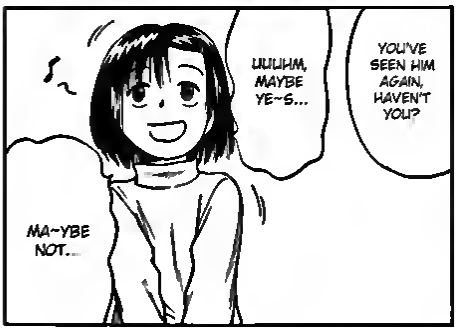
Mokke
created by Takatoshi Kumakura

オロオロ
I'M HOME.
GRANDPA..
……
スーッ




YOU BROUGHT US A BIG ONE THIS TIME.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


ひょ!!!
AH, HI THERE, POPS!


YOU'VE SEEN HIM AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU?
UUUHM, MAYBE YE~S...
MA~YBE NOT...

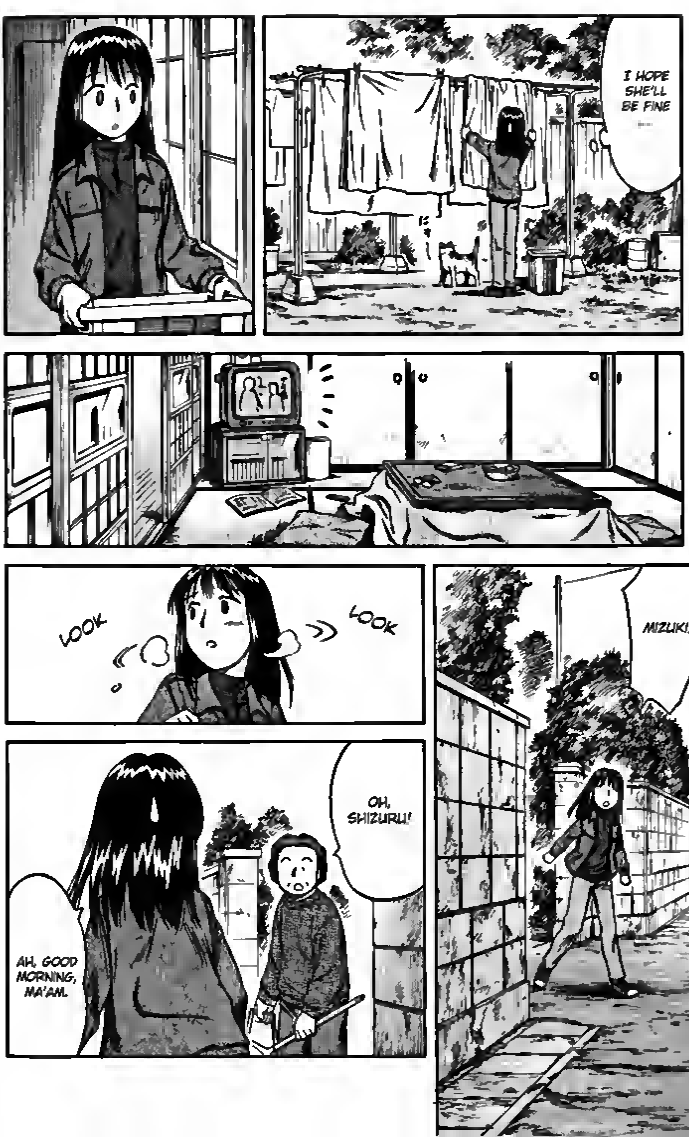
SHE WAS LIKE THAT SINCE SHE CAME HOME.
SHE'S NOT TAKING US SERIOUSLY AT ALL.
……
ジ…
GOOD GRIEF
ふーっ
IT'S TIME TO SLEEP.
MIZUKI,

I'M GOING TO MEET HIM TOMORROW AND ASK HIM
WHAT IS IT EXACTLY?
A CATFISH?
YOU CAN SAY THAT, YES
TO RECOVER THE CATFISH HE UNLEASHED.
HE'S CERTAINLY STILL AROUND.
IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM.
YOU AND MIZUKI WON'T GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW. YOU WATCH OVER YOUR SISTER, SHIZURU.

ブクブク…
WAIT!
I SAID WAIT!
IT ALWAYS SLIPS FROM MY HANDS...

I WONDER
HOW CAN I CATCH IT?
MIZUKI!
YES...
BREAK-FAST IS READY
YOU COMING?
もくもくもく
SHIZURU...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YOU CAN, IF YOU COOK YOURSELF, THAT IS
AH, NO, DON'T WANT TO
にゅっ
はー…
IF ONLY WE CAN EAT WHENEVER WE'RE HUNGRY!
BY THE WAY,
WHY DO WE ALWAYS EAT AT A FIXED TIME?
HEHE HEHE
REALLY? IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I AM THOUGH
SOMETIMES, IT'S NOT BAD, I GUESS...
BECAUSE YOU'RE POSSESSED, MIZUKI!
WHY DO WE HAVE PERMISSION TO STAY AT HOME TODAY?
HA
HA
HA


I HOPE SHE'LL BE FINE...
LOOK
LOOK
MIZUKI!
OH, SHIZURU!
AH, GOOD MORNING, MA'AM.

WE'RE EXCEPTIONALLY ALLOWED TO STAY HOME TODAY, HAHA...
SHOULDN'T YOU GIRLS BE AT SCHOOL?
MIZUKI!
はらはら
YOU STILL NEED TO REST.
WHY---?
IT'S ANNOYING TO STAY ALL DAY AT HOME~
AH!
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE FUN OUTSIDE!
BUT I'M NOT EVEN SICK!
BESIDES,
OTHERS MAY FIND THAT STRANGE...

HEY,
ENOUGH PLAYING!
HIHIHI!
ひょ
ば
ひらっ
!
LET'S PLAY TAG!
WE HAVEN'T PLAYED IT IN A LONG TIME!
ば
HAHA HA...
TRY AND CATCH ME!

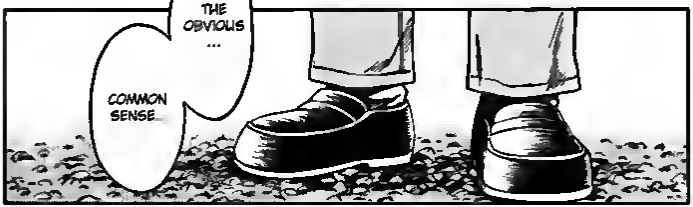
バン
ゲooo....
ザザッ
ゲoo...
ザッ
ザッ
ザッ

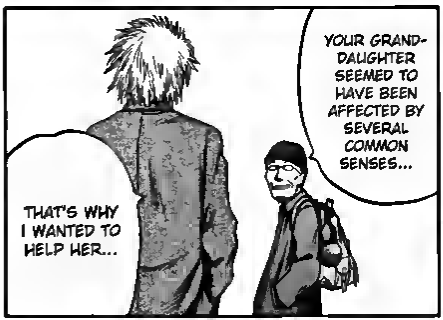
YES IT HAS
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
I SEE YOU'RE ALWAYS ROAMING AS USUAL.
BUT YOU'RE NOT YOUNG ANYMORE, IT MUST BE ARDUOUS.
THIS PLACE HAS CHANGED A LOT.
I SEE.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE CATFISH?
YOU'RE FREE TO DO WHATEVER YOU PLEASE BUT
DON'T LET OUT THINGS THAT ARE NOT VERY INTERESTING!
HAVE YOU VISITED OUR MASTER'S GRAVE?
YES.
WHAT'S REALLY ARDUOUS IS MY BEHAVIOUR WHICH HASN'T CHANGED DESPITE THE YEARS
HAHAHA!

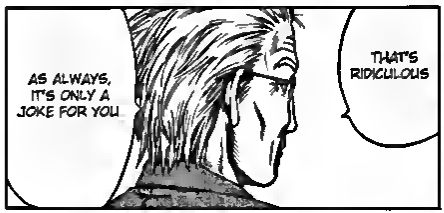
I UNDERSTAND BUT
AT THE SAME TIME I BELIEVE THAT THAT'S WHAT SHE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR DEEP DOWN
THAT OLD BAD HABIT OF YOURS!
BESIDES MIZUKI CAN BE EASILY POSSESSED. IT'S NOT FUNNY AT ALL!
I JUST COULDN'T HELP IT.
HAA
HAA
WE'RE HAVING LOTS OF FUN,
RIGHT SHIZURU?
HAHA HAHA HAHA HA!!!
HAA
HAA

HAA
HAA
IT'S ENOUGH, MIZUKI.
LET'S GO BACK HOME.
EH... YOU'RE ALREADY TIRED?
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH STAMINA, DO YOU?
HAA
HAA
!!!
ぺたん
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO BACK HOME?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SHIZURU.
BUT...
IT'S NORMAL TO HAVE THE DESIRE TO HAVE FUN!
NO ONE REALLY THINK IT'S STRANGE!

THEN YOU GO BACK HOME ON YOUR OWN.
ひよッ
UGH...
よろっ


THE OBVIOUS ...
COMMON SENSE...


YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY SEVERAL COMMON SENSES...
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO HELP HER...


THAT'S RIDICULOUS
AS ALWAYS, IT'S ONLY A JOKE FOR YOU

SOMETIMES ARE DIFFI-CULT TO UN-DERSTAND.
WE TEND TO THINK THAT THE OTHERS POSSESS THE SAME PERCEPTION OF THINGS...

YOU PLAN ON LEAVING WHILE THE CREATURE IS FREE?!
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM FOR ME.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK,
IT'S A REAL SHAME.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHETHER IT'S EVIL OR NOT.
PUTTING IT BACK IN IS THE JOB OF THE ONE WHO LET IT OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THE BEAST IS NOT EVIL.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TAME IT.
HAHA..
I WAS SURE YOU'RE GOING TO SAY THAT.
FINE. WILL YOU WAIT PATIENTLY FOR A WHILE?

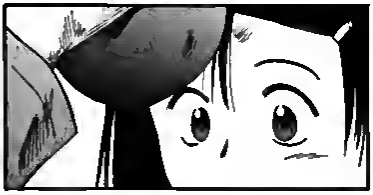
ザッ、ザッ、
SO YOU HAD HER COMING HERE?
YES.
?
AH!
GRANDPA?
HAA
HAA
HAA
THIS IS HIM...
THE MAN THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT
SMILE
HIIIII

I SEE
YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A LOT OF FUN LATELY.
WELL, LET'S GET STARTED.
?
HOW'S THAT?
HOWEVER, YOU HAVE TO BE VERY STRONG FROM WITHIN TO BE POSSESSED BY THIS CREATURE BECAUSE IT MIGHT END UP DESTROYING YOU.
IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR YOU.
AND THE PROOF IS THAT YOU DEVOTED YOURSELF COMPLETELY TO THIS CREATURE THAT YOU LOST SIGHT OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.

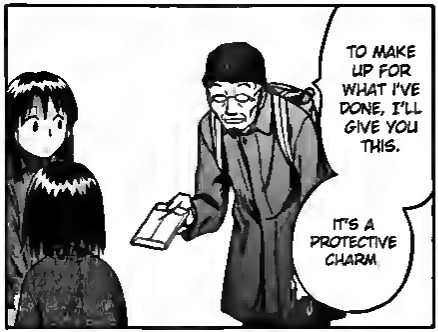
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU LOOK INSIDE THE GOURD AGAIN.
……
すぅ
AH...
THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL!
HUH?

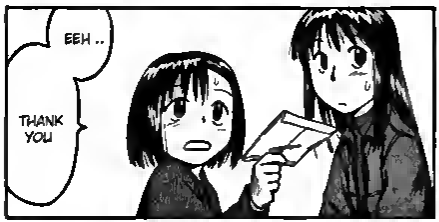
EVEN IF THE GROUND IS SHAKING,
AS LONG AS THE GOD KASHIMA
REMAINS
THE KEY STONE
ひぃ
WILL NOT YIELD.
ひぃ
ようぅ

WH-WHAT AM I DOING ...
IN THIS OUTFIT?
かぁ～



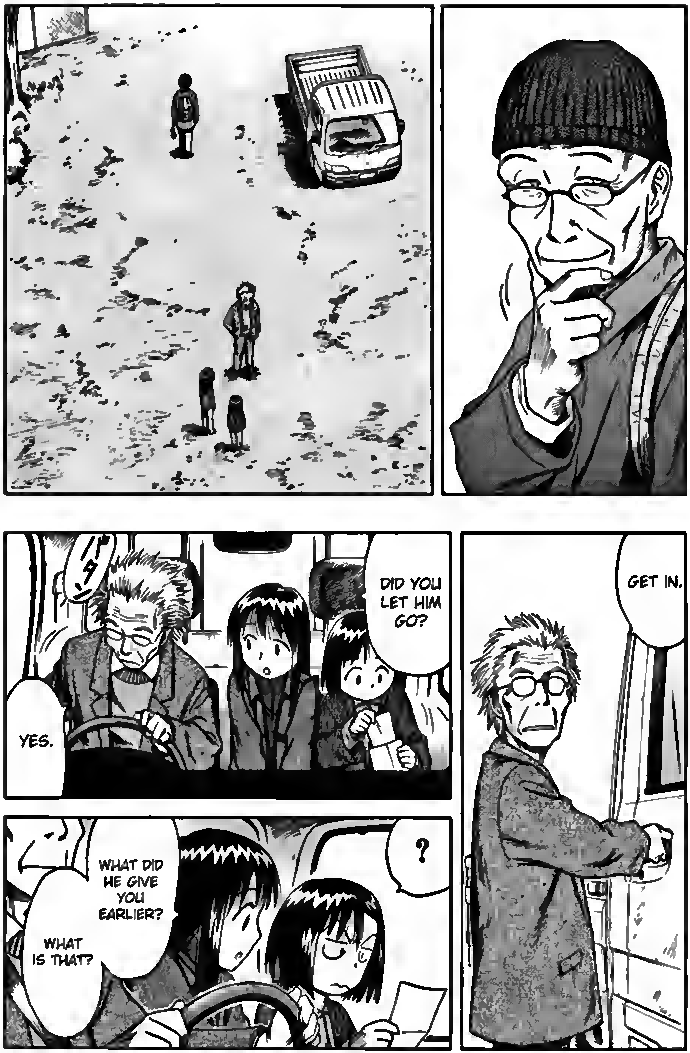
MI-...
MIZUKI?

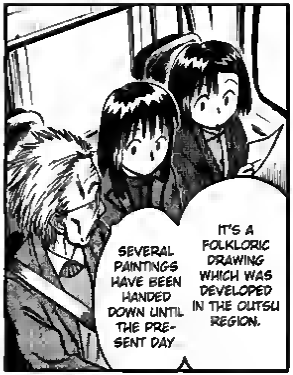

TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT I'VE DONE, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
IT'S A PROTECTIVE CHARM


EEH ..
THANK YOU

I AM DEEPLY SORRY.

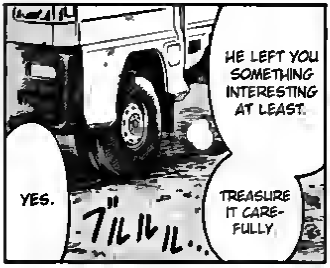
!!
GRAB
I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE
I'LL BE GOING NOW.
I WARN YOU
DON'T DO THIS AGAIN...
FROM NOW ON, JUST MAKE DO WITH ONLY COMING.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE DULLNESS, YOU KNOW.
WHATEVER.
フイ

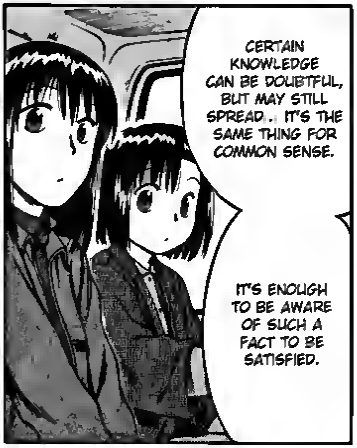

GET IN.
DID YOU LET HIM GO?
YES.
WHAT DID HE GIVE YOU EARLIER?
?
WHAT IS THAT?

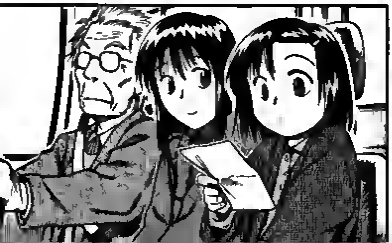

IT'S A FOLKLORIC DRAWING WHICH WAS DEVELOPED IN THE OUTSU REGION.
SEVERAL PAINTINGS HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY

IT'S AN OUTSUE

AMONG THOSE, TEN HAVE BEEN USED AS PROTECTIVE CHARMS.
THE ONE YOU'RE HOLDING IS A HYOUTAN-NAMAZU WHICH SYMBOLIZES THE LINK BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE FISH AND IT ALSO SOLVES DIFFERENT ACCIDENTS SATISFACTORILY.


HE LEFT YOU SOMETHING INTERESTING AT LEAST.
YES.
TREASURE IT CAREFULLY.
ブルルル..


CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE CAN BE DOUBTFUL, BUT MAY STILL SPREAD. IT'S THE SAME THING FOR COMMON SENSE.
IT'S ENOUGH TO BE AWARE OF SUCH A FACT TO BE SATISFIED.



I'M STARTING TO REMEMBER SLOWLY THE TIME WHEN I WAS POSSESSED AND...
IT'S EMABARASSING I ACTED LIKE AN IDIOT!
IN ANY CASE...
WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE FUN FOR QUITE A WHILE.
BUT IT WAS NICE WHEN WE PLAYED TAG AT THE END.
YEAH, JUST A LITTLE.
Hoop...
ADMIT IT, MIZUKI
YOU ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH TOO, RIGHT?